

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims-I CLAIM:

1-25 cancelled

26. (currently amended) A disposable hygiene article having an absorbing element component for storing body liquids, ~~which may contain superabsorbent materials~~, the absorbing element component comprising:

a respective front and rear first area having a mass per unit area of absorbent material that increases starting from a longitudinal center line extending in a longitudinal direction of the hygiene article in a transverse direction towards side edges of the hygiene article so that a mass per unit area of the absorbent material of the absorbing element component increases in said transverse direction on both sides of said longitudinal center line towards side edges of the absorbing element component without decreasing again in said transverse direction, the absorbing element component further comprising a respective front and rear second area having a mass per unit area of absorbent material which increases in said longitudinal direction of the hygiene article towards a crotch area thereof and is maximum within said crotch area, wherein the absorbing element component has a width which decreases from a rear and/or front area of the hygiene article towards said crotch area, wherein a storage capacity of a section extending in a longitudinal direction over ~~20 to 100 %~~ 40 to 90% of a length of the absorbing element component is substantially constant along said longitudinal direction.

27. (currently amended) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein said section of constant storage capacity extends over 30 to 90%, ~~40 to 70 %, or 45 to 60 % of a length of the absorbing element component.~~
28. cancelled.
29. (currently amended) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein said first area of increasing mass per unit area of absorbent material increases in said transverse direction by 30 to 200 %, ~~30 to 150 %, or by 50 to 120 %.~~
30. (currently amended) The hygiene article of ~~claim 28~~claim 26, wherein said second area of increasing mass per unit area of absorbent material of has a mass per unit area increase in said longitudinal direction of 50 to 500 %, ~~50 to 400 % or 100 to 350 %.~~
31. (currently amended) The hygiene article of ~~claim 28~~claim 26, wherein a maximum mass per unit area of said second area of increasing mass per unit area is larger than a maximum mass per unit area of said first area of increasing mass per unit area.
32. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein said first area of increasing mass per unit area is separated from a center of a crotch area of the hygiene article.
33. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 32, wherein two said first areas are provided, which are separated from a center of the crotch area of the hygiene article.

34. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein said first area or a line of maximum mass per unit area of said first area extends in said longitudinal direction on both sides of the hygiene article over at least 15 % of a length of the absorbing element component.
35. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 34, wherein said first area or a line of maximum mass per unit area of said first area extends in said longitudinal direction on both sides along side edge areas of the hygiene article.
36. (currently amended) The hygiene article of ~~claim 28~~claim 26, wherein said first area of increasing mass per unit area in said transverse direction and said second area of increasing mass per unit area in said longitudinal direction are disposed in direct abutment to or overlapping with each other.
37. cancelled.
38. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein the absorbing element component is compressed to a substantially uniform thickness.
39. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein areas of increasing mass per unit area also form areas of increasing density.
40. (currently amended) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein the absorbing element component comprises at least two absorbing element layers.

41. (currently amended) The hygiene article of claim 40, wherein an absorbing element component has a substantially uniform mass per unit area.
42. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein the absorbing element component has an absorbing element layer comprising cross-linked cellulose fibers.
43. (currently amended) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein the hygiene article further comprises cuff elements extending substantially in a longitudinal direction and elevated at least in certain areas, said cuff elements forming lateral outlet barriers and being fixed at least along a cuff bottom line on a side of the article facing a user's body.
44. (currently amended) The hygiene article of claim 43, wherein said cuff elements ~~are guided at~~ include varying separation ~~distances~~ distances between cuff bottom lines.
45. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 43, wherein said first area of larger mass per unit area comprises at least one partial area in which a mutual separation between said cuff bottom lines is larger than outside of said partial area.
46. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 45, wherein said partial area is disposed outside of a central longitudinal section of the hygiene article and at a separation from a center of a crotch area of the hygiene article.
47. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 43, wherein said cuff elements are guided such that said cuff bottom lines are

disposed at a maximum separation from each other in said longitudinal direction.

48. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 47, wherein said maximum separation is entirely within a portion of said first area.
49. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 47, wherein said maximum separation between said cuff bottom lines is disposed in a front area and/or a rear area of the hygiene article.
50. (previously presented) The hygiene article of claim 26, wherein the absorbing element component comprises a mixture of fibers and particulate superabsorbent materials.